**WASHINGTON**, **DC**– Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after the Congressional super committee failed to reach an agreement on cutting the federal debt:

"Today's announcement by the special committee set up by the Budget Control Act of 2011 is disappointing news, but it is not the final word in the effort to reduce our debt. Congress still has an obligation to enact a balanced plan to strengthen our nation's public finances. Under the Act, the House and Senate still have 13 months to find such an agreement before sequestration is operational. I urge leaders of both chambers and parties to go back to the Administration's \$3 trillion deficit-reduction plan offered a short time ago as a balanced template that will reduce our nation's debt, while still protecting critical national defense needs and our obligation to America's seniors. I have heard from small businesses, farmers, and health care givers in eastern Connecticut, and I am confident that approach is the best way forward."

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